

BUILDING CARING CONNECTIONS IN MAINE

What is Building Caring Connections in Maine?

Building Caring Connections in Maine is three-year youth suicide prevention grant awarded in 2013 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Grant activities, which will continue through September 2016, are managed by the Maine Suicide Prevention Program, located within the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC).

Project Purpose:

To support project partners statewide to develop and implement prevention and early intervention activities to identify, support, refer and with follow-up youth who are at risk of suicide. Partners include youth serving institutions and agencies, such as schools, career services, colleges, juvenile justice systems and tribal communities.

Project Goals:

- Educate school staff about suicide, and strategies for identifying and intervening with youth at risk for suicide.
- Enhance suicide prevention screening, assessment, treatment and follow-up with at-risk youth seen at School Based Health Centers, primary care setting, and community agencies.
- Enhancing training, technical assistance and resources provided to staff working with populations of youth who are at increased risk of suicide, such as LGBTQ, tribal, young adults aged 18-24 in non-college settings and military families.
- Support schools and communities following a death by suicide.
- Evaluate the impact and effectiveness of project activities.

Experience:

The Maine Suicide Prevention Program is nationally recognized in youth suicide prevention. An Advisory Council, representing key agencies and partners at the state and national levels, utilize the Maine Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan 2012-2017 to guide the program work.

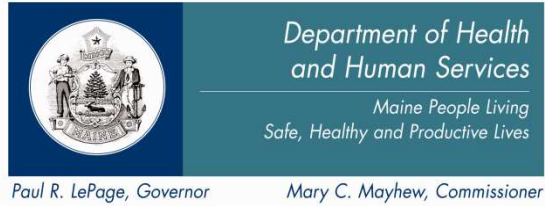
State resources include: a crisis hotline (1-888-568-1112); website (<http://www.maine.gov/suicide/>) and resource center (www.maineosa.org/irc) ; statewide training (www.namimaine.org) , education and technical assistance to schools, health care providers, and communities; and gathering and disseminating suicide data.

Maine is especially noted for its school-based work, specifically the *Lifelines Student Lessons* and *School Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol Guidelines* and other nationally produced tools and resources.

Points of Contact:

Emily Weston, Project Coordinator: emily.weston@maine.gov; 207-287-5362

Katharyn Zwicker, Principal Investigator: katharyn.b.zwicker@maine.gov ; 207-287-5359



BUILDING CARING CONNECTIONS IN MAINE

Project Partners:

Loring Job Corps

Maine National Guard

Maine Pre-Trial Services

Micmac Service Unit

Out As I Want to Be

Penobscot Job Corps Academy

School Based Health Centers

University of Southern Maine